

CITY OF GALVESTON IS ENGULFED AND THOUSANDS OF LIVES LOST

STATE OF TEXAS LAID WASTE BY HURRICANE

Estimates on Loss of Life Run From 1,000 to 3,000
—Galveston is Completely Submerged.

Buildings Demolished and People Drowned—Survivors in
Great Distress—Other Towns Are Destroyed.

GOVERNOR SAYERS SAYS THAT THE LOSS OF LIFE IN GALVESTON IS 3,000

New York, Sept. 9.—The World tomorrow will print the following:
"AUSTIN, TEXAS.—INFORMATION HAS JUST REACHED
ME THAT ABOUT 3,000 LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST AT GAL-
VESTON, WITH ENORMOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY."
"No information from other points."
(Signed) "JOSEPH D. SAYERS, Governor."

Houston, Tex., Sept. 9, 10 p. m.—The West Indian storm, which reached the Gulf coast yesterday morning, has wrought awful havoc in Texas.

Reports are conflicting, but it is known that an appalling disaster has befallen the city of Galveston, where it is reported a thousand or more lives have been blotted out and a tremendous property damage inflicted.

Meager reports from Sabine Pass and Port Arthur also indicate a heavy loss of life, but these reports cannot be confirmed at this hour.

The first news to reach this city from the stricken city of Galveston was received tonight. James C. Timmins of Houston, general superintendent of the National Compress company, arrived here at 8 o'clock tonight from Galveston.

After remaining through the hurricane on Saturday, he departed from Galveston on a schooner and came across the bay to Morgan's point, where he caught a train for Houston.

The hurricane, Mr. Timmins said, was the worst ever known.

Estimated Loss of Life 1,000.

The estimates made by citizens of Galveston was that 4000 houses, most of them residences, have been destroyed, and that at least 1,000 persons have been drowned, killed, or are missing.

Some business houses were also destroyed, but most of them stood, though badly damaged.

The city, Mr. Timmins averred, is a complete wreck, so far as he could see from the water front and from the Tremont hotel.

Water was blown over the island by the hurricane, the wind blowing at the rate of eighty miles an hour straight from the Gulf and forcing the sea water before it in big waves.

The gale was a steady one, the heart of it striking the city about 5 o'clock yesterday evening and continuing without intermission until midnight last night, when it abated somewhat, although it continued to blow all night.

Of his own knowledge, Mr. Timmins knew of only one house succumbing with fatal results, though he heard of many residences being carried away with inmates. The house that he saw destroyed was Ritter's saloon and restaurant at 2109 Strand street, a principal business street of the city.

This three-story building was blown down and nine men, prominent citizens, were killed.

First List of Dead.

Among the dead are:
Charles Keiser, sr., a cotton buyer for an English firm.
Stanley C. Spencer, general manager of the Elder-Demeter steamship line.
Richard Lord, manager for McFadden's Cotton company, whose body is still in the ruins.

Secretary Bailey of the wharf company and several customers saved themselves by jumping from the upper story just before the crash came.

Crowded Hospitals Destroyed.

It was reported that the orphan asylum and both hospitals were destroyed, and if this prove true, the loss of life will be great, as these institutions were generally crowded, and as they were substantial buildings, the chances are that many persons had taken refuge in them.

The water extended across the island, Mr. Timmins said it was three feet deep in the rotunda of the Tremont hotel and six feet deep in Market street.

Along the water front the damage was very great.

The roofs had been blown from all the elevators and sheds along the wharves were either wrecked or had lost their sides and were of no protection to the contents.

Ships Are Wrecked.

Most of the small steam craft were wrecked and were either piled up on the wharves or floating bottom-side up in the bay.

There is a small steamship ashore

three miles north of Pelican island, but Mr. Timmins could not distinguish her name. She was flying a British flag.

Another big vessel had been driven ashore at Virginia point and still another ground at Grays City.

At the south point of Houston island another ship lies in a helpless condition. The lights that mark Galveston harbor, is hard and fast aground at Bolivar point.

Mr. Timmins and the men with him on the schooner rescued two sailors from the middle bay who had been many hours in the water. These men were foreigners and he could gain no information from them.

A large steam tug was observed just before the party landed.

In the bay the carcasses of nearly 200 horses and mules were seen, but no human body was visible.

Wait for Lost Relatives.

The scenes during the storm, Mr. Timmins said, could not be described. Women and children were crowded into the Tremont hotel, where he was seeking shelter, and all night these unfortunate were bemoaning their loss of kindred and fortune.

They were grouped about the stairways and in the galleries and rooms of the hotel.

What was occurring in other parts of the city he could only conjecture.

City Is Under Water.

The city of Galveston, he says, is now entirely submerged and cut off from communication.

The boats are gone, the railways cannot be operated and the water is so high that people cannot walk out by way of the bridge across the bay, even should the bridge be standing.

Provisions will be badly needed, as a great majority of the people lost all they had.

The waterworks power house was wrecked and a water famine is threatened, as the cisterns were all ruined by the overflow of salt water.

This is the worst problem to be faced now. The city is in darkness, the electric light plant having been ruined.

Residences Are Gone.

There is no way of estimating the property damage at present. So far as he could see or hear, Mr. Timmins says, the east end portion of the city, which is the residence district, has been practically wiped out of existence.

On the west end, which faces the Gulf, another portion of the island, very much has been done.

The beach was swept clean, the bath houses are destroyed and many of the residences are total wrecks.

Disaster All Along the Coast.

The wires are down and there is no way of estimating just what has happened, but enough is known to make it certain that there has been great loss of life and destruction of property all along the coast and for a hundred miles inland. Every town that is reached reports one or more dead and the property damage is so great that there is no way of computing it accurately.

Galveston remains isolated. The Houston Post and the Associated Press correspondents to Houston efforts to get special trains and tugs today with which to reach the island city. The railroad companies declined to risk their locomotives.

All sorts of rumors prevail, but with no substantial basis.

It is known that the railroad bridges across the bay at Galveston are either wrecked, or are likely to be destroyed with the weight of a train on them; the approaches to the wagon bridge are gone and it is rendered useless.

The bridge of the Galveston, Houston & Northern railroad is standing, but the draw bridge over Clear creek and at Edgewater are free and the roads cannot get trains through to utilize the bridge across the bay.

A train went down the Columbia Tap road this afternoon as far as Chenango Junction.

The town was greatly damaged and the bodies of nine negroes were taken from the ruins of one house.

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